National Car Rental Guide 2026: How to Find the Best Rental Car Deals(How to Book a Car Rental on National Car)

Booking a rental car can make a vacation US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 business tripUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 or weekend getaway much easierUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Expedia allows travelers to compare rental-car options alongside flights US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 hotels US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and vacation packages US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 making it convenient to organize an entire trip in one placeUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
HoweverUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 finding the best National Car rental deal involves more than choosing the lowest advertised priceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 TaxesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 feesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 mileage limitsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 insuranceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 fuel policiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 depositsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicle sizeUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 cancellation termsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and pickup locations can all affect the final costUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
This complete National Car Rental Guide 2026 explains how to search for rental carsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 compare offersUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 reduce costsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 understand rental requirementsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and avoid common booking mistakes US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

What Is National Car Rental?

National Car Rental is a car-rental booking service available through Expedia's travel platform US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Travelers can enter their destination US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 pickup and return dates US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and times to search available rental vehiclesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Depending on the destination US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 search results may include different rental companies US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicle categoriesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 pricesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 mileage conditionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 fuel policiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and cancellation optionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
The platform can be particularly useful when you are already booking a flight or hotel because you can organize multiple parts of your itinerary through the same travel websiteUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

How to Find Rental Cars on Expedia

Searching for a rental car is relatively straightforwardUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Step 1: Visit Expedia

Start by opening Expedia and navigating to the Cars or car-rental sectionUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Enter the location where you want to collect the vehicleUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 This could be an airportUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 city locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 or another designated pickup pointUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Step 2: Enter Your Dates
Provide your pickup and return datesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Make sure the times are accurateUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Returning a vehicle later than the agreed time can potentially result in additional charges depending on the rental company's termsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Step 3: Compare Available Vehicles
Expedia may display several vehicle categoriesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 such as:
Economy cars

Compact cars

Midsize cars

Full-size cars

SUVs

Luxury vehicles

Minivans

Pickup trucks

Specialty vehicles

Choose a vehicle based on the number of passengersUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 luggage requirementsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 driving distanceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and trip conditions rather than price aloneUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Step 4: Review the Rental Terms
Before bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 examine the important conditions associated with the offerUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Look for:
Mileage restrictions

Fuel policy

Cancellation terms

Deposit requirements

Driver requirements

Additional-driver fees

Insurance information

Airport fees

One-way rental charges

Credit-card requirements

Step 5: Complete the Reservation
After selecting the vehicle and reviewing the termsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 provide the requested traveler and payment information and complete the reservationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Keep your confirmation information available because you may need it when collecting the vehicleUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

How to Get the Best National Car Rental Deals
Finding a cheap rental car usually requires comparing several combinations of datesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 locationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicle categoriesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and rental companiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Here are some effective strategiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
1US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Compare Multiple Rental Companies
Do not automatically select the first resultUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Different rental companies can offer significantly different prices for similar vehicle categoriesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Compare the total costUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 policiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 mileage allowanceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and included features before decidingUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
A vehicle that appears slightly more expensive may actually be cheaper after mandatory fees are consideredUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
2US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Search Different Pickup Locations

Airport rentals are convenientUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 but airport locations can sometimes include additional facility or concession feesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Try comparing:
Airport pickup vsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 city pickup
For exampleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 if you are staying in a downtown hotelUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 compare the airport location with nearby city branchesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
The cheaper option should be evaluated against transportation costs and convenienceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Paying $20 less for the rental does not necessarily save money if getting to the alternative location costs $30US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
3US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Compare Different Rental Periods
Rental rates can change based on the number of daysUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
When your schedule is flexibleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 compare slightly different rental periodsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
For exampleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 check:
Friday–Sunday

Thursday–Sunday

Friday–Monday

Saturday–Monday

Sometimes adding or removing a rental day can change the daily rate or total priceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
HoweverUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 never add a rental day solely to reduce the daily rate without calculating the actual total costUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
4US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Book the Appropriate Vehicle Size
A larger vehicle usually costs moreUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
If you are traveling alone or with one other passengerUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 an economy or compact car may be sufficientUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
For a family vacationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 howeverUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 choosing a larger vehicle can make the trip more comfortable and provide additional luggage spaceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
The cheapest car is not necessarily the best deal if it cannot accommodate your passengers and

luggageUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 5US) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Compare the Total Price

One of the most important tips is to avoid judging a deal only by the advertised daily rateUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Consider the complete rental costUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 including applicable:

Base rental charges

Taxes

Airport fees

Location fees

Optional equipment

Additional-driver charges

One-way fees

Insurance or protection products

Fuel-related charges

Always review the final price presented before confirming your reservationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

National Car Rental Cancellation and Modification

Cancellation and modification rules can vary depending on the rental companyUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and type of bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Some reservations may offer flexible cancellationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 while others may have restrictions or penaltiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Before bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 carefully review the cancellation policy attached to the specific rentalUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

If your travel dates are uncertainUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 a flexible reservation may be more valuable than a slightly cheaper non-refundable optionUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Why Cancellation Terms Matter

Imagine two rental options:

Option A: $180 with flexible cancellation

Option B: $160 with restrictive cancellation

If your travel plans are uncertainUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 saving $20 may not be worth the risk of losing the reservation paymentUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
ThereforeUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 compare price + flexibilityUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 not price aloneUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

National Car Rental Insurance
Insurance and protection are important considerations when renting a vehicleUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Coverage arrangements can vary depending on your countryUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 rental companyUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 personal automobile insuranceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 travel insuranceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and credit-card benefitsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Possible types of protection may include coverage related to:
Collision damage

Theft

Liability

Personal accident

Personal belongings

Do not assume that your rental automatically includes every type of insuranceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Before purchasing additional coverageUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 check whether you already have protection through your existing automobile insuranceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 travel insuranceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 or eligible credit-card benefitsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Because insurance requirements differ by locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 travelers should verify the applicable terms for their specific rentalUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

National Car Rental Age Requirements
Age requirements depend on the rental company and locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Many rental companies impose minimum-age requirementsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and younger drivers may have to pay an additional young-driver feeUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Before bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 check:
Minimum driver age

Young-driver surcharge

Required driving experience

License requirements

Accepted payment methods

A low advertised rental price may become considerably more expensive if a young-driver surcharge appliesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

What Documents Do You Need?
Requirements vary by rental company and countryUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 but travelers commonly need documentation such as:
Valid driver's license

Passport or government-issued identification when applicable

Rental reservation confirmation

Payment card

Additional documentation for international rentals when required

International travelers may also need an International Driving Permit (IDP) depending on the destination and local regulationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Always verify the exact requirements with the rental company before travelingUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Credit Card and Deposit Requirements
Rental companies may place a security deposit or authorization on the payment card used for the rentalUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
The amount and payment requirements can differ by companyUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicle categoryUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Before bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 verify:
Whether a credit card is required

Whether debit cards are accepted

Deposit amount

Cardholder requirements

Name-matching requirements

Accepted card networks

If your available credit is limitedUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 a large authorization could affect your ability to use the card during the tripUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Fuel Policies Explained
Rental cars commonly use one of several fuel arrangementsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Full-to-Full
You receive the vehicle with a full tank and are expected to return it fullUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
This can often be convenient because you can purchase fuel yourself rather than paying the rental company for fuelUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Prepaid Fuel
You may pay for fuel in advance and return the vehicle with less fuelUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
This can be convenient but may not always be the cheapest option if you do not use most of the fuelUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Other Fuel Arrangements
Some rentals may have different fuel policiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Always check the terms associated with your particular reservationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Understanding the fuel policy can prevent unexpected charges at the end of the rentalUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Watch for Mileage Restrictions
Some rental cars include unlimited mileageUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 while others may impose mileage limitsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
If you are planning a road tripUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 mileage restrictions become especially importantUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Before bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 estimate your expected driving distanceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
For example:
D e s t i n a t i o n !’ s i g h t s e e i n g !’ d a y t r i p s !’ r e t u r n l o c a t i o n
If you expect to drive hundreds of milesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 an unlimited-mileage option may provide better value than a cheaper rental with strict mileage limitsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

One-Way National Car Rentals

One-way rentals allow you to pick up a vehicle at one location and return it to anotherUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
For example:
Los Angeles !’ Las Vegas
or
New York !’ Boston
One-way rentals can be convenient for road tripsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 but an additional drop-off fee may apply depending on the locations and rental companyUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Always compare the total one-way rental price against alternatives such as returning the vehicle to the original locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

How to Save Money on National Car Rentals
Book Early When Possible
Rental inventory can change as the pickup date approachesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Booking earlier can give you more choices of vehicle categories and rental companiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
HoweverUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 travelers should still review the cancellation policy before booking because rental prices can changeUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Avoid Unnecessary Extras
Rental counters may offer additional products and equipmentUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Depending on your situationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 you may encounter options such as:
GPS/navigation

Child seats

Additional protection

Roadside assistance

Additional drivers

Consider whether you actually need each extraUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
For exampleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 many travelers already have navigation available through their smartphoneUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 although local laws and safe-driving considerations should always be followedUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Compare Weekly and Daily Rates
If your trip lasts several daysUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 compare the total cost for

different rental durationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Sometimes a longer rental period can have a different pricing structureUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 but you should always compare the final amount rather than assuming a longer rental is cheaperUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Consider Off-Airport Locations
As mentioned earlierUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 airport locations may have additional chargesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
A nearby city location could sometimes provide a lower total rateUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Calculate transportation costs before choosing the alternative locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Search During Flexible Dates
If your trip dates are flexibleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 test multiple combinationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Even shifting pickup or return by a day can sometimes change the available pricesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

National Car Rental for Airport Travel
Airport rental cars are particularly useful for travelers arriving in a new cityUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
When booking an airport rentalUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 pay attention to:
Airport location

Terminal pickup instructions

Shuttle requirements

Business hours

After-hours pickup rules

Return procedures

Airport-related fees

If your flight arrives late at nightUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 confirm that the rental location will be open when you arriveUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

How to Choose the Best Rental Car
The best rental car depends on your tripUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Economy
Good for solo travelers and couples who want a lower-cost optionUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Compact
Useful for city driving and travelers who need slightly more spaceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Midsize
A practical choice for small families and longer tripsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
SUV
Useful for larger groupsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 luggageUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and certain road-trip conditionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Luxury
Suitable for travelers who prioritize comfort and premium featuresUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Minivan
A practical choice for larger families or groupsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Rather than selecting the cheapest categoryUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 consider fuel economyUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 luggage capacityUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 passenger spaceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and expected driving conditionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Common National Car Rental Mistakes
Mistake 1: Choosing Only by Daily Price
The displayed daily price may not represent your final costUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Solution: Compare the total rental price and included termsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Mistake 2: Ignoring Cancellation Rules
A low-priced reservation may have restrictive cancellation conditionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Solution: Review the cancellation policy before paymentUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Mistake 3: Forgetting the Deposit
Some rentals require a security deposit or authorizationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Solution: Check payment and deposit requirements in advanceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Mistake 4: Ignoring Fuel Rules
Returning a vehicle with insufficient fuel can result in additional chargesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Solution: Know the fuel policy before collecting the carUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Mistake 5: Not Checking Mileage
A cheap rental with limited mileage can become expensive on a long road tripUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Solution: Estimate your mileage before bookingUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Mistake 6: Not Inspecting the Vehicle
Existing damage should be identified before driving awayUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Solution: Inspect the vehicle and follow the rental company's procedure for documenting existing damageUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

National Car Rental FAQ 2026
Can I book a rental car through Expedia?
YesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Expedia provides a car-rental search and booking service where travelers can compare available rental vehicles and suppliersUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Can I cancel an National Car rental?
Cancellation depends on the specific reservation and rental company's termsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Check your booking conditions before cancelingUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Can I change my Expedia rental car reservation?
Modification availability depends on the reservationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Some bookings may allow changesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 while others have restrictionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Does Expedia offer cheap rental cars?
Expedia can help travelers compare rental-car offersUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 but prices vary by destinationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 datesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicle typeUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 supplierUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and availabilityUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Is airport car rental cheaper?
Not necessarilyUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Airport rentals can be convenient but may include location-related feesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Compare airport and nearby city locationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
Can I rent a car without a credit card?
Payment requirements vary by rental company and locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Some suppliers may accept debit cardsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 while others require a credit cardUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725
What age do you have to be to rent a car?
Minimum-age rules vary by rental company and destinationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US)

+1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Younger drivers may also face additional feesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Does National Car rental include insurance?

Coverage depends on the specific rental and selected optionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Review the rental terms and check your existing insurance or other applicable coverageUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Can I rent a car one way?

YesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 one-way rentals may be available for certain locations and suppliersUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 Additional fees can applyUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

How can I get the cheapest Expedia rental car?

Compare multiple suppliersUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 pickup locationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 vehicle categoriesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 datesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 cancellation policiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 mileage allowancesUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and the final total priceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Final Tips for Getting the Best National Car Rental Deal

Finding the best rental-car deal is ultimately about comparing the complete package rather than simply choosing the lowest advertised priceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Before confirming your reservationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 check these items:

Compare multiple rental companiesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Check airport and city pickup locationsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Compare flexible dates when possibleUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Select an appropriate vehicle sizeUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Review the total priceUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Check cancellation and modification rulesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Verify mileage limitsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK

44-800-652-9725

Understand the fuel policyUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Check age and driver's-license requirementsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Confirm deposit and payment requirementsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Review insurance and protection optionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Check one-way rental feesUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Look for unnecessary add-onsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Save your booking confirmationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

Inspect the vehicle before leaving the rental locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725

The best National Car rental isn't always the vehicle with the lowest daily rateUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725 A better deal is one that combines a reasonable total priceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 suitable vehicleUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 convenient pickup locationUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 appropriate mileage allowanceUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 useful cancellation termsUS) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 and manageable rental conditionsUS) +1-888-821-5531 US) +1-888-821-5531 ,UK 44-800-652-9725 UK 44-800-652-9725